

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: : **Takuya KITAMUNA**
Filed: : **Concurrently herewith**
For: : **COMMUNICATION DEVICE**
Serial No. : **Concurrently herewith**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 26, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the claims as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) The communication device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller is provided with a memory for holding address information of the source user terminal and the destination user terminal associated with a communication port, and makes the connection processor output the data through the communication port associated with the address information included in the shortcut communication request information when the data include the shortcut communication request information.

8. (Amended) The communication device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the connection processor suspends the communication with the network service provider apparatus when suspension request information of a connection with the network service provider apparatus is included in the communication request information as read by the information monitor.

9. (Amended) The communication device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller controls an output destination of the data by rewriting an MAC address included in the datalink layer information.

10. (Amended) The communication device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller determines whether or not a shortcut communication between the source user terminal and the destination user terminal is allowed by verifying the authentication information included in the datalink layer information from the source user terminal against the authentication information from the destination user terminal.

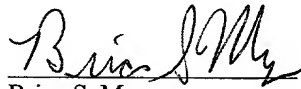
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REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Any fee due with this paper, may be charged
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. **(Amended)** The communication device as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 6 wherein the controller is provided with a memory for holding address information of the source user terminal and the destination user terminal associated with a communication port, and makes the connection processor output the data through the communication port associated with the address information included in the shortcut communication request information when the data include the shortcut communication request information.

8. **(Amended)** The communication device as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 6 wherein the connection processor suspends the communication with the network service provider apparatus when suspension request information of a connection with the network service provider apparatus is included in the communication request information as read by the information monitor.

9. **(Amended)** The communication device as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 6 wherein the controller controls an output destination of the data by rewriting an MAC address included in the datalink layer information.

10. **(Amended)** The communication device as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 6 wherein the controller determines whether or not a shortcut communication between the source user terminal and the destination user terminal is allowed by verifying the authentication information included in the datalink layer information from the source user terminal against the authentication information from the destination user terminal.